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- 2 -

SUMMARY

Discussion of industrial shortcomings is confined to the familiar weaknesses of the lumber and fishing industries and to some extent, also to coal mining. The shortage of manpower, both seasonal workers and qualified permanent cadres, is said to be aggravated by technical difficulties which need not have arisen under efficient management, such as the lack of spare parts for the major lumber-producing equipment. The Labor Reserves Ministry is castigated for its failure to supply the required labor force for the logging camps but there is little reference to the source of difficulties involved in the recruitment of labor for that particular industry. One of the main reasons for the admitted scarcity and low efficiency of the lumberjacks may be deduced from PRAVDA's recent intimation that the poor living conditions (plokhiye uslovia zhizni) prevailing in many camps offer no attraction to new personnel. Industrial enterprises, however large, are not permitted to make any downward revisions of the Plan figures without sanction from above except in extreme emergencies when unforeseen complications threaten to jeopardize the production program. The mentioned PRAVDA complaint about unsatisfactory living conditions and IZVESTIA's allusion to the revision to the "vicious practice" (porochnaya praktika) of plan reduction tend to support the belief that the neglected human element involved in the production of lumber is chiefly responsible for the industry's failure to pull itself out of the slump which has lasted "for a number of years."

Radio treatment of the fishing industry's activities traces its major shortcomings to the disproportionate development of the fishing fleet and the shore bases which are all too inadequate for handling, storing and processing the increasing fish hauls. This discrepancy is said to account also for the inordinate spoilage in some fishing areas, and the production time wasted by keeping vessels in ports too long.

There is little to report on Party activities beyond the increased critical references to the recurrent practice of co-opting rather than electing local Communist officials.

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